

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

CRAMER, Robert E. ("Bud") (Democrat)  
Representative, 5th District, Alabama  
Elected 1990 to 102nd Congress;  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: Huntsville, Alabama - 22 August 1947

Home: Huntsville, Alabama

Marital status: Widower - 1 child

Religion: Methodist

Education: Univ of Alabama, B.S., 1969; J.D., 1972

Military: Army, 1972; Army Reserve, 1976-78

Profession: Lawyer

Political: Madison County DA, 1981-1990. Defeated Albert McDonald (R) with 67% of the vote to succeed Rep Ronnie G. Flippo (D), who ran unsuccessfully for governor. Reelected in 2000 with 89% of the vote and in 2002 with 73%.

Rep Cramer is a conservative Democrat and cofounder of the so-called Blue Dogs, a coalition of largely southern Dems. Since the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress when he backed then President Clinton 75% of the time, he has shifted to supporting his party only 45% of the time in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. Has been the target of several overtures by the GOP to switch parties. His fiscal conservatism is tempered by support for NASA and the Pentagon who have major facilities in his district – Marshall Space Flight Center and the Army's Redstone Arsenal. Boeing also has a satellite rocket booster facility in the district. Has voted to permit abortions at overseas military hospitals and to allow federal employee's health care plans to cover abortions. In the 106th Congress, voted to provide Medicare benefits to military retirees and their dependents. Voted to authorize airstrikes against Yugoslavia. Opposed setting conditions for deployment of national missile defense. Visited Colombia and Kosovo.

In the 107th Congress, appointed on 11Apr02 to the Intelligence Cmte, which he previously served on during the 103rd Congress. Paid tribute to the late Maj Dwayne Williams, USA, who died in the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon and whose parents reside in the 5th District. Voted against granting the President fast-track trade negotiating authority. Opposed federalizing passenger and baggage screeners and giving the Justice Dept responsibility for airport security. Supported expanding law enforcement authority to investigate suspected terrorists. In April 2002 went with Sen Shelby on an intelligence-gathering mission to several Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan. Voted to authorize the war against Iraq. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress supported the FY03 wartime supplemental approps and the FY04 DoD authorization that he said provided a pay raise for military personnel, supported ballistic missile defense and programs to counter terrorism.

Member: Army Caucus, Missile Defense Caucus, Military Veterans Caucus, Guard & Reserve Components Caucus

AF Bases: None

### COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary; VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies; District of Columbia

SELECT INTELLIGENCE – Subcs on: Technical & Tactical Intelligence (Ranking); HUMINT, Analysis & Counterintelligence; Terrorism & Homeland Security